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ABSTRACT

A key mission of the community college is to provide service and education to the community. One important facet of community service, especially in rural areas, is the provision of artistic and cultural programs to enhance the quality of life. Toward this end, Black Hawk College has worked to promote the fine arts by offering citizens the opportunity to enjoy and/or participate in drama, music, and art through the establishment of a Community Arts Program. The program was created through cooperation between the college and local residents, and currently over 1,600 people a year participate in activities including a college-community choir, a college-community dinner theater, performances by touring theater groups and artists, exhibits of local and state artists, and an arts workshop for children. The organizational structure of the program is designed to incorporate many people and share responsibility among advisory committee members, program coordinators, community volunteers, and support personnel from the college. The program is self-supporting with revenues coming from ticket sales and grants from the Illinois Arts Council and a local trust fund. The arts program is an example of a working symbiosis between college and community, with the college providing facilities, management, and stability, and the community supplying talent, people, funds, and interest. By-laws for the Community Arts Program are appended. (HB)

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THE SMALL/RURAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S ROLE IN ENHANCING THE FINE ARTS

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ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
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THE SMALL/RURAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S ROLE IN ENHANCING THE FINE ARTS

Dr. William M. Simpson

Contemporary community colleges are designed and intended to be comprehensive institutions. As part of this charge, community colleges have incorporated into their mission community service and community education. To accomplish such a mission community colleges work closely with citizens and groups beyond the colleges themselves in order to bring a broad range of perspectives into planning and implemeting appropriate programs.

Improvement of artistic appreciation and/or participation can be an important facet of a community college's community service. Toward this end, Black Hawk College, East Campus in Kewanee, Illinois, has worked and is working to promote the various fine arts throughout its service region of Henry, Stark, and western Bureau counties by offering citizens the opportunity to enjoy and/or participate in drama, music, and art through the establishment of a Community Arts Program.

Mission

Community colleges, especially in rural areas, have a responsibility to provide cultural enrichment for its citizens. John Easton of Westshore Community College in Michigan has written that the rural community college is often the only source of cultural enrichment. Furthermore, a public community college is mandated to share its resources whether it be personnel, buildings, or programs. From this perspective, it is natural for a community college to bring enrichment in the arts to its area.

The primary justification for bringing the arts to the people beyound the normally prescribed curricula is to enhance the quality of life. A culture's quality of life is measured by the quality of its art, for art reflects the

values of society. If a college accepts its responsibility to educate and enlighten, it has an obligation to offer the arts an opportunity to be promoted and enjoyed. Through offering people the chance to appreciate the arts, the values of the culture can be expressed and understood. Consequently, the quality of life is raised.

Program

The Community Arts Program was established through the cooperation of the Community Service Division of Black Hawk East, and the citizens of the area. Included are a college-community choir, a college-community dinner theater, touring theater groups and performing artists, exhibits of local and state artists, a juried art exhibition limited to local artists, a month long arts workshop for children, and a semi-annual newsletter.

Prior to the establishment of the Community Arts Program, art opportunities available for adults in the community were sporatic. The college through this program has striven to give stability and continuity to community arts by working with community arts leaders and experimenting with different artistic programs. Over 1600 people a year either participate or attend a Program activity.

As a result of the college's leadership, and the eagerness of the area people, a comprehensive program is offered as described above. Since participation by as many people as possible is the Program's aim, it is believed that a comprehensive program will inevitably offer something for most people.

The percentage of the population base reached by the Program is about five percent as less than 30,000 people populate the college's service region. A vast majority of participants are not enrolled students, but interested residents of the district, and eighty percent of the audiences are not directly connected with the College. By developing the Community Arts Program, the college is able

to expand its services and offer its facilities to hundreds more people each year than just those registered for classes. The objective of providing arts opportunities for citizens is being met through the combined efforts of the college and community.

Governance

No program is successful without dedicated and cooperative people. This is true of the Black Hawk Community Arts Program. The organizational structure is designed to incorporate many people and share responsbility.

Overseeing the Program is an Advisory Board of six citizens, two college representatives, and one student. Members are appointed by either the college president or Board of Trustees. Bi-monthly meetings are held, and significant decisions are made at the meetings. The executive secretary of the Board is the college's Director of Community Service. This office handles all secretarial and treasurer duties, and is the key link to the college. Assisting the Executive Secretary is the Director of Program Development, a citizen volunteer who handles the details of planning and coordinating and is the key link to the community.

Each area of the Program has a coordinator, usually a community leader. These individuals have strong committments to the arts, and work diligently to provide quality activities for the audiences who attend each event. Helping them complete their tasks are numerous volunteers, some of them students, with administrative support from the college. Additional support is generated from area businesses and public school districts through the loan of equipment and materials, and often discounts on purchases. Such cooperation enhances the community nature of the Program. The role of the college is to provide support through the use of its management skill.

Funding

In this time of austere finances and tight budgets for community colleges, non-credit activities should be largely self-supporting. At Black Hawk East, a self-supporting effort with no direct college funds budgeted for the Community Arts Program is being accomplished. Funding for the Community Arts Program comes from three sources--ticket revenue from each arts event, a grant from the Illinois Arts Council and a grant from a local trust fund.

The Illinois Arts Council prefers community arts programs in which community colleges are involved to be community based and oriented, and not an extension of instruction. This philosophy is shared by Black Hawk East. The Illinois Arts Council grant is crucial for without it there would be insufficient funds to operate the program. Money for stipends for program personnel and fees for outside groups comes from the Illinois Arts Council grant.

The college provides facilities, some operating overhead, and personnel at no cost to the program. Included within the college's contributions are use of the auditorium for plays and concerts, the quiet lounge for art exhibits, and office space and equipment for the Director of Program Development. Revenue from ticket sales generate enough money to cover the cost of supplies, materials, travel, rental, royalty fees, telephone toll calls, and advertising.

The college is fortunate to be in a community which has a trust fund for youth programs. The Harry Anderson Youth Foundation provides total funding for all youth projects such as the Creative Arts Workshop (a month long series of art courses in the summer) and support for the Prairie Arts Exhibit's high school division. Again, this is an example of college-community relations and positive cooperation.

Symbiosis

Sharing and blending the resources of a community and a community college are keys to a successful program regardless of its nature or purpose. Neither the college nor the community could offer the totality of the Community Arts Program on its own. Each lacks something the other can provide: the college has facilities, management and stability; the community has talent, people, funds, and interest. A combined effort of college and community resources and talent blend together for a Community Arts Program. Additionally, the Illinois Arts Council assists with finances and expert advice. The Black Hawk Community Arts Program seeks to fulfill fine arts needs beyond the academic program by bringing the enjoyment of the arts to its citizens and to advance the values of the culture through art enriching the quality of life. By all measures the college is achieving this goal.

BLACK HAWK COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM
BY-LAWS
BLACK HAWK COLLEGE, EAST CAMPUS
KEWANEE, ILLINOIS

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Black Hawk Community Arts Program.

II. PURPOSE

The Black Hawk Community Arts Program purpose is the promotion of fine arts throughout its service region by offering citizens the opportunity to attend and/or participate in drama, music, and visual arts. This is to be accomplished by producing a college-community theater, a college-community choir, hosting touring theatrical groups or performers, exhibiting works of art, or offering other artistic or cultural opportunities as is appropriate.

III. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Black Hawk Community Arts Program consists of all citizens of the Black Hawk College, East Campus Service Region. All may attend or participate in any event sponsored by the Program, or hold office in the organization.

Categories of membership may be established by the Advisory Board of the Community Arts Program as is deemed appropriate.

Any dues will be set by the Advisory Board.

IV. GOVERNANCE

A. Advisory Board - Composition, Selection, Terms, and Elections

1. An Advisory Board will consist of six citizens, one Black Hawk College, East Campus student, one Black Hawk College, East Campus representative, and the Executive Secretary.

2. Selection of the Advisory Board will be as follows: citizens will be appointed by the Black Hawk College Board of the Trustees as recommended by the Executive Secretary and campus President; a student will be selected by the college Director of Community Service; a college representative will be appointed by the campus President.

3. The terms of office will be as follows: citizens will serve three-year staggered terms; students will serve one-year terms; college representatives will serve a two-year term. All Advisory Board members will be limited to two successive terms. The Executive Secretary will serve a continuous term on the Board.

4. Terms will run from June 1 to May 31.

5. Appointments will be made in May each year.

B. Advisory Board - Duties and Meetings

1. The Advisory Board will advise and assist the Executive Secretary in planning and implementing the Arts Program with regard to programs, activities, budgets, finances, fund-raising, personnel, publicity, public-relations and other matters that come before it.

   The Advisory Board will advise in the selection of Program activity coordinators and director of program development and recommend their salaries if any. Appointments of Program Coordinators and Director of Program Development will be for one year and may be renewed.

2. The Advisory Board will meet bi-monthly except no meeting will be held in June, July or August.

   Special meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Advisory Board. All meetings will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order. A quorum will consist of one officer and three Advisory Board members.

C. Officers - Selection and Terms

1. There will be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Executive Secretary and Director of Program Development. Each will be a member of the Advisory Board.

2. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be elected by a majority vote of the Advisory Board. The Executive Secretary will be the college Director of Community Service. The Director of Program Development will be appointed by the Advisory Board upon the Executive Secretary's recommendation.

3. The term of office for the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be two years. The term of the Executive Secretary will be continuous. The term of Director of Program Development will be one year and renewable.

4. Terms of office will run from June 1 to May 31.

5. Election of officers will be held in May every other year beginning in 1981.

D. Officers - Duties

1. Chairperson - the Chairperson shall perform the following duties: preside over all meetings of the Advisory Board; call special meetings; appoint committees; delegate special responsibilities; plan for meetings with the Executive Secretary.

2. Vice-Chairperson - the Vice-Chairperson will act as Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence.

3. Executive Secretary - the Executive Secretary shall perform the following duties: take minutes at all scheduled meetings; handle all official correspondence; act as a liasion with the college administration; account for all revenues and expenses of the program; prepare an annual report for the Advisory Board; prepare an agenda with the Chairperson for each meeting; authorize all payments. The Executive Secretary will have full voting privileges on matters that come before the Advisory Board.

4. Director of Program Development - the Director of Program Development shall oversee all activity coordinators, assist with planning, direct publicity and advertising, direct fund-raising, act as liasion between the Arts Guild and coordinators, and conduct evaluation of programming. The Director of Program Development may be a member of the Advisory Board. The Director of Program Development reports to the Executive Secretary.

E. Officers - Vacancies and Succession

1. In the event of a vacancy in the Chairpersonship, the Vice-Chairperson will become the Chairperson for the remainder of the unexpired term.

2. In the event of a vacancy in the Vice-Chairpersonship, the Advisory Board will elect a new Vice-Chairperson to complete the unexpired term.

3. Vacancies in the Executive Secretary will be filled temporarily by Advisory Board election until the college selects a Director of Community Services.

4. Vacancies in the Director of Program Development will be filled by appointment of the Advisory Board upon recommendation of Executive Secretary.

F. Nominating Committee

Two members of the Advisory Board will be appointed by the Chairperson in March each year to select candidates for the Advisory Board and officers as is appropriate. The Executive Secretary will serve as chairperson of the committee.

V. COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES COORDINATORS

A. Program Coordinators

The Program activities coordinators are the following: college-community choir coordinator; college-community dinner-theater coordinator; regional events coordinator; visual arts coordinator; coordinator of Arts Guild. Other coordinator positions may be recommended by the Advisory Board as necessary, or existing coordinator positions may be abolished as recommended by the Advisory Board.

All coordinators report to the Director of Program Development.

B. Duties of Coordinators

1. Coordinator of College-Community Dinner Theater
   a. Recommend play for production.
   b. Select dates for performances of play.

c. Recommend director of plays.
d. Supervise production of play.
   1. plan and coordinate auditions
   2. assist in selecting cast with director
   3. select crews and head of crew, assign tasks, and develop work schedule
   4. coordinate work schedule of crews
   5. arrange for practice sites and times
   6. oversee preparation of auditions for play production
e. Supervise dinner;
   1. recommend selection of caterer
   2. plan menu
   3. arrange for serving and seating
   4. arrange for set-up and clean-up
   5. arrange for dinner music
   6. arrange for social hour preceding dinner
f. Assist Director of Public Information in play publicity and advertising, program and tickets
g. Serve on Advisory Board as ex-officio member

2. Coordinator of College-Community Choir
   a. Assist with selection of dates for semi-annual concerts
   b. Select music for concerts
   c. Arrange for set-up of auditorium
   d. Rehearse choir once a week for concerts
   e. Assist with publicity
   f. Assist with preparation of programs and tickets
   g. Serve on Advisory Board as ex-officio member

3. Coordinator of Regional Events
   a. Recommend program at least once a semester of groups, lectures or performers from outside and to the college
   b. Contact concert groups, and establish dates of performance, and coordinate any contractual obligations with the Executive Secretary
   c. Arrange for site of concert performance
   d. Assist with publicity
   e. Assist with preparation of programs and tickets
   f. Serve on Advisory Board as ex-officio member

4. Coordinator of Visual Arts
   a. Plan and arrange for display of juried art exhibits of local artists during fall semester
   b. Plan for periodic art exhibits
   c. Assist with fund raising for art exhibit
   d. Coordinate events with college Art Department
   e. Assist with publicity
   f. Serve on Advisory Board as an ex-officio member

5. Coordinator of Arts Guild
   a. Chair Arts Guild of the Community Arts Program
   b. Assist with production and promotion of Program activities
   c. Assist with fund-raising activities
   d. Serve on Advisory Board as ex-officio member

F. Other Personnel
   a. A director of the college-community dinner theater play will be selected by the coordinator of the dinner theater and the Executive Secretary, will be subject to compensation, and will have the following duties:
      1. select cast (with assistance from coordinator).
      2. assist with selection of crews
      3. recommend play for production
      4. direct and prepare the cast for performance
      5. plan set design
      6. assist with preparation of auditorium for play production
   b. The Advisory Board may select and compensate other personnel for work rendered on behalf of a program activity as they deem necessary.

VI. REVISION/AMENDMENTS

A. Consideration to revise the by-laws for the purpose of establishing an arts council will be done annually beginning one year following the adoption of these by-laws. To revise the by-laws to establish an arts council requires a 3/4 vote of the Advisory Board at a special meeting one month after submission of a final draft proposal.

B. The By-laws may be amended as follows:

Submission of a proposed written amendment to the Advisory Board Chairperson one week prior to a regular meeting.

Consideration of the proposed amendment will occur at the first regular meeting following its submission.

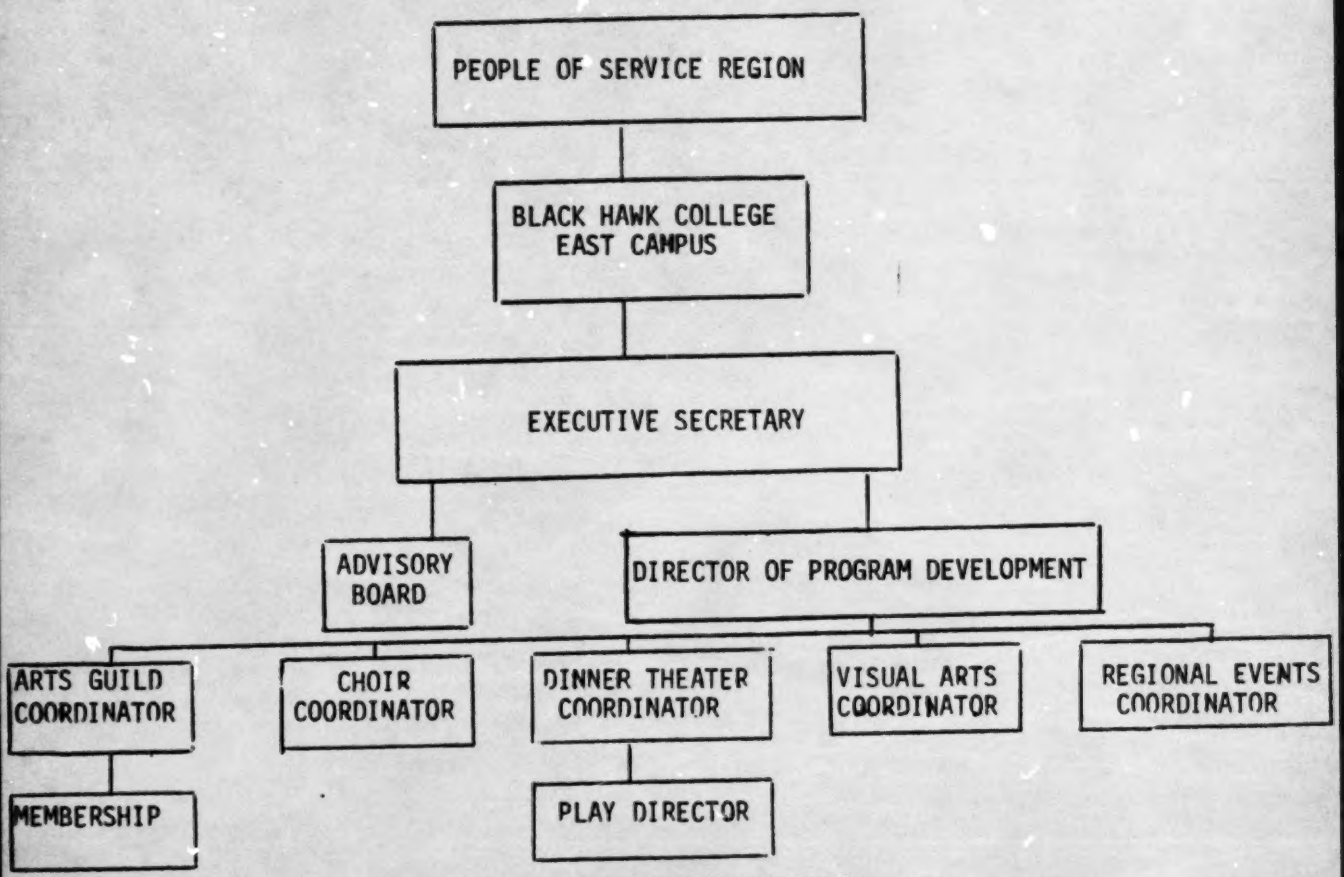
Ratification of the proposed amendment will be considered at the second regular meeting following its submission. A 3/5 vote of all members of the Advisory Board is required for passage.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

This set of by-laws will be implemented as adopted by the Black Hawk East College Community Arts Program on July 1, 1981.

Amended May 18, 1982

BLACK HAWK COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM



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